

City of Bloomington Commission on the Status of Women

Meeting Minutes for August 7, 2008

The next BCSW meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 4, 2008, 5:30pm. BCSW meetings are open to the public and members of the community are encouraged to attend.

Commissioners present: Cathi Crabtree, Merridee LaMantia, Ashley McDonald, Toby Strout, Amy Jackson, Jillian Kinzie

Staff present: Sue Owens, Community & Family Resources Department

Guests present: Andrew Libby, Sheilia Goodwin

Community volunteer: Peg Lindenlaub

1. Meeting called to order by Cathi Crabtree at 5:37pm.

2. Additional Agenda Items

- A. Office of Women's Affairs (OWA) and potential collaboration opportunities
- B. Bloomington Community Foundation is launching project to examine family friendly workplaces; interested in partnering with BCSW on this project

3. Approval of Minutes – Amy Jackson made a motion to accept the July minutes; Jillian Kinzie seconded; the motion carried.

4. Andrew Libby – I.U. Office of Service Learning – Andrew provided an overview of IU's Office of Service Learning, <http://www.indiana.edu/~cops/>, which provides opportunities for students, faculty and staff to partner with the community through direct service and project-based service learning:

- Andrew works with the community partners. Nicole Schonemann, Director of the program, works with faculty. Nicole talks to departments and promotes service learning in an effort to involve more faculty and departments in the program.
- It is important to remember that this is student work and not professional work.
- There can be one community partner with one faculty member –or- one faculty member may take on several community partners. This depends on how a particular course fits the needs of the project(s).
- Experiential credit is coming.
- There have been on-going partnerships that span multiple semesters.
- A community partner may suggest a department to work with or request that Service Learning assist in finding a match.
- The IU instructor is responsible for seeing that the project is completed. The community partner is asked to speak to the class, introduce the project, lay out the project details and communicate with the students as the project work progress.
- Typically, students are expected to put in 15 hours to get service learning credit for the class but this may not necessarily be the standard; the professor may require more for a student.

The commissioners had the following ideas for service learning projects:

- Research statewide legislative issues that have an impact on women, e.g., minimum wage. Look at all legislative topics on the slate, write a synopsis and post the information on the BCSW website. This would help to educate the community, women in particular, on current issues.
- Maintain an annotated bibliography that could be referenced in the BCSW reports.
- Involve students in the Women's History Month and Women's Leadership events.

- Compile information on those women that have been selected as Woman of the Year. Perhaps a one page biography with a photo.
- Assist with the preparation of a packet or CD that teachers could use during WHM month to educate the students on women's history. This could be an outreach effort geared toward high school students.
- Assist with the gathering of statistics for the five topical reports on the status of women produced by the Commission.

5. Old Business

1. Data Report

1. **Women's Victimization, Domestic Violence** – Cathi Crabtree did send a copy of the domestic violence report that was distributed to the Commissioners at the July meeting. The report serves an example of the type of questions for which we are still seeking information. As of this meeting, the Prosecutor's office has not responded.

Cathi attended a Monroe County Council budget workshop and voiced support, on behalf of the Commission, for the creation of a new position in the prosecutor's office for a sex crime deputy prosecutor.

2. **Health and Wellbeing** – Jillian Kinzie and Ashley McDonald continue to seek information on challenges women face getting mammograms and other reproductive health services. They are also trying to track down community health assessment projects. They have left messages with the Health Department and are waiting on a response.
3. **Education** – Dorothy Granger and Debra Vance have prepared a 10-page draft report and have asked Sue Owens to email a copy out to the Commissioners.
4. **Civic Engagement and Leadership** – nothing new to report
5. **Economics and Employment** – nothing new to report

2. Women's History Month

1. **Luncheon – March 11, 2009** – It was noted that any BCSW commissioner can be on the planning committee.
2. **WHM Calendar** – Merridee LaMantia and Sue Owens met to discuss and develop an online form that will allow people to submit event information for Women's History Month. Ideas for advertising the availability of this form were discussed:

- email to those who have participated in the past
- place an announcement in the local paper
- ask Bloom Magazine to profile Merridee and talk about last year's calendar;
- put information on City of Bloomington homepage
- add to Woman of the Year press release for woman of the year
- email departments and groups that focus on women

3. **WHM Display area/City Hall during Women's History Month** – Merridee LaMantia and Ashley McDonald went to Channelcore to gather information on new display materials for the Commission to use when participating in different events. At next month's meeting Merridee will submit a proposal for the materials, including a carrying case, and fees for developing the content. Toby made a motion to purchase the display materials and case; Jillian Kinzie seconded and the motion carried.

3. **Women's Leadership Event** – March 30, 2009 or March 26, 2009 – As of August 1st, the office of Public Works is accepting reservations. Sue will contact that office and request March 30th. If that date is not available she will request March 26th.

E. Budget and funding ideas

1. Utilize funds for a scholarship program that would be awarded to women in the community so that they could attend leadership training. It was suggested that \$1500 could be designated for this purpose and awarded as three \$500 awards or two \$750 awards. Availability of the awards could be publicized in August or after the spring leadership event. Applicants would need to provide a description of the training they would like to attend and discuss how it will help to develop their leadership skills. Following the training the individual that received the award would be asked to give a presentation at a BCSW meeting and a workshop at the next leadership event. Concern was expressed on sustaining the awards over time although the availability of the awards could be announced without making a commitment to provide the awards indefinitely.
2. Jillian suggested that funds be spent on a permanent women's leadership plaque that displays the year and name of the Woman of the Year. Toby made a motion to pursue this idea and asked that Sue obtain pricing; Amy seconded and the motion carried.

6. New Business

A. Office of Women's Affairs (OWA) and potential collaboration opportunities – Cathi met with Yvette Alex-Assensoh, the Dean of the Office of Women's Affairs at IU on July 21, 2008.

Potential areas for collaboration opportunities between the BCSW and OWA include:

1. Taking a new twist on the Commission on Personal Safety. Rather than look at it as it has been historically, i.e., relating to sexual assault, Yvette is interested in looking at it from the angle of Personal Security (including Identity Theft and Finances for Students).
2. Voter education in light of the important elections in the fall.
3. Building healthy relationships.

Regarding areas that OWA might be able to assist BCSW, these include:

1. Helping with reports.
2. Teaming with BCSW on events.
3. Efforts to bridge town/gown.
4. Cathi offered BCSW's participation on panels (as done in the past) at IU events.

B. Bloomington Community Foundation is launching project to examine family friendly workplaces and they are interested in partnering with BCSW on this project.

Note: Added as an agenda item but not discussed.

7. Public Input – No additional input to report.

8. Mail Report – The report was distributed by Sue Owens; no additional input to report.

9. Adjournment – Amy made a motion to adjourn; Toby seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Peg Lindenlaub